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wa.
12. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising conveyor means (34) for removing solid mater separated in the processing chamber from the bottom part thereof.

REMARKS

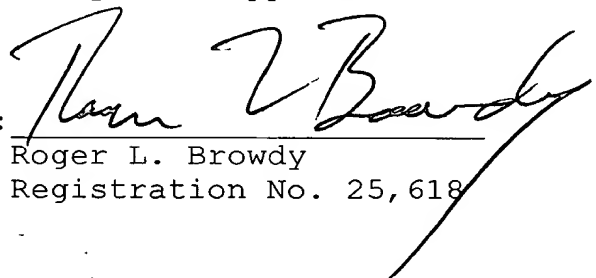
The above amendment to the specification is being made to insert reference to the PCT application of which the present case is a U.S. national stage. The above amendments to the claims are being made in order to eliminate any properly multiply dependent claims, for the purpose of reducing the filing fee. Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee in this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 5, 7 and 9-12 have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of the claims 1-4~~claim 1, wherein the processing chamber is defined by a peripheral wall and a pair of opposite end walls, at least one of the end walls comprising a releasable end wall part covering an opening, which is defined in the upper part of the end wall, said opening having dimensions sufficient to allow insertion of guide plates into the chamber through such opening.

7. (Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of the claims 1-6~~claim 1, wherein the inner peripheral wall of the processing chamber comprises means (37-39) for releasable fastening said guide plates (7-9; 20-21) at any of axially spaced, predetermined positions.

9. (Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of the claims 1-8~~claim 1, wherein the guide plates (7-9; 20, 21) extend substantially at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the processing chamber (1).

10. (Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of the claims 1-9~~claim 1, wherein consecutive guide plates are formed and arranged so as to force gas flowing from the gas supplying means (10) to the gas discharge means (11) to follow a tortuous path and to flow in opposite, transverse directions.

11. (Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of the claims 1-10~~claim 1, wherein at least some of the guide plates define or comprise conduits (33) for a heating or cooling fluid.

[illegible]